

C3 PHILIPPINES

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Patricia Davis
Board President
C3 Philippines

2020 was an exceptional year with the pandemic hitting the Philippines hard starting in May and resulting in lockdowns and restricted movements for the entire year. The team adapted well in terms of running activities following social distancing and providing PPE in Palawan and managed to achieve all the intended outcomes due to their creativity and versatility. We are proud of the team's abilities to adapt field activities to ensure that outputs were completed on time, without needing to request any extensions from our donors, despite being offered the possibility. This is reflective of their ability to adapt quickly to unexpected challenges and risks and the dynamism which is inherent to smaller organisations.

Our Programme Coordinator, Rey Ramilo was nominated for the Whitley Award and shortlisted along with only 14 other candidates

from 106 competitors from the Global South countries. We also secured new donor funding for Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape and our Taytay marine programme, providing further sustainability in terms of covering our core costs of our new offices in Palawan.

A set of new technical staff from Palawan have joined us to roll out expansion of our research on dugong and seagrass in Roxas municipality. Presentations were made on mangrove conservation in Busuanga Island during the Palawan Landscape Dialogue organized by Forest Foundation Philippines. We joined the Blue Environment: Marine and Coastal Webinar organized by the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and highlighted C3's successful marine conservation

programmes. We also provided academic support to Master in Marine Affairs (MMA) students of University of the Philippines- Visayas.

We impacted more than 10,000 people and conserved an estimated 15,000 hectares of critical habitat across the last frontier for biodiversity.

The Calawit community dugong-watching programme ceased from March to December due to COVID-19 and a lack of both international and national tourists. C3 responded quickly to this gap in revenue by providing alternative sources of income for the women across 3 affected communities, equipping them with sewing machines for face mask sewing (featuring embroidered dugongs & seagrass). Changes to behaviour in the dugong population in the absence of tourism will be monitored from the air using our drones to see if the same habitat is used.

C3 also facilitated the installation of hand washing facilities in 3 strategic public locations in Busuanga and donated PPE to communities.

C3 looks forward to expanding into freshwater, blue carbon and forest conservation in 2021 with new

donor support. Thanks to everyone who supported and promoted C3's work during these challenging times, and most of all to the communities for continuing their patrolling, monitoring and protection efforts despite this difficult and unforeseen impact on their daily lives.

Patricia Davis

ABOUT C3 PHILIPPINES

C3 is recognised as the lead NGO for marine research and conservation in Palawan.

C3 Philippines began in the Calamianes islands, Palawan, in 2011. It focuses on community-led conservation of one of the last frontiers for marine and terrestrial biodiversity in the Philippines.

C3 successfully implemented a vast network of locally managed marine areas (LMMAs), patrolled by fishers who enforce bans on illegal fishing gear and activities. Fishers and other community members monitor and report on the status of endangered marine species including dugongs and sea turtles and actively protect, rehabilitate and monitor coastal systems including seagrass beds, mangroves and coral reefs. The programme is fully inclusive of Local Government Units, the Department for Environment and Natural Resources, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, traditional owners, Indigenous Peoples, universities, and the private sector. C3 has also launched successful sustainable

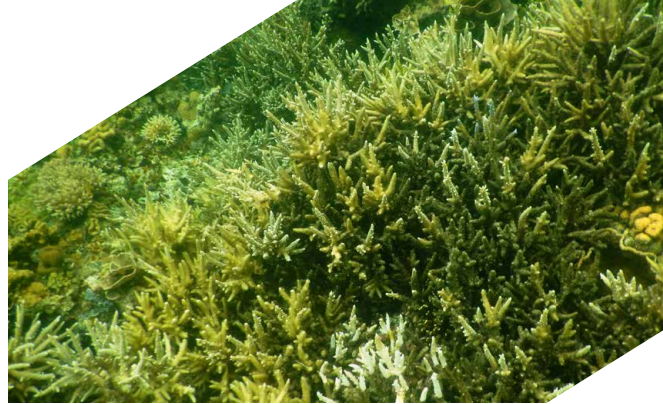


enterprises linked to the LMMAs which generate an income and deliver capacity building for employment for women, LGBT, and unemployed youth.

C3 employs a wide range of scientific techniques including the latest technology in Unmanned Aerial Devices and mobile apps for monitoring and enforcement. With offices in Busuanga, Puerto Princesa and Taytay, C3 is extending its successful blueprint for community conservation across the entire province of Palawan, scaling up impact in response to growing threats from tourism, overfishing, wildlife trade, pollution, and deforestation.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2020

In 2020, C3 Philippines continued its important conservation efforts in grassroots capacity building, biodiversity research and environmental education, and awareness initiatives in four thematic areas: (1) **Blue Carbon**, covering seagrass and mangrove research and conservation; (2) **Sustainable Marine Protected Area Management**; (3) **Dugong and Sea Turtle Conservation**; and (4) **Rural Enterprises** in Busuanga Islands and in Northern Palawan, Philippines. As in past years, C3 was grateful to all the donors and partners who supported its efforts in this fiscal year 2020 from January to December. This year's accomplishments were made possible with the funding support from the United States Agency for Sustainable Development (USAID), Forest Foundation Philippines, Seacology Grant, International Climate Initiative (IKI), and the EDGE of Existence Fellowship Program.



Some programmatic work in the field was temporarily suspended when the COVID pandemic kicked in. Almost all community, social, and cultural activities came to an abrupt halt due to social distancing norms, restrictions on physical movement, lockdowns, and/or concerns about spreading or contracting the coronavirus. Similar to many NGOs, C3 was compelled to redesign or pivot its implementation strategies for 2020 and beyond in order to respond to challenges caused by pandemic. Despite the considerable challenges, C3 keenly anticipated and implemented appropriate COVID response plans that enabled the programme to deliver and accomplish its commitments and deliverables. Throughout the year, C3 implemented five major community driven projects: (1) Busuanga Coastal Forest Project; (2) USAID-Fish Right Program; (3) Bogtong Mangrove Boardwalk Project; (4) Integration of Tagbanua Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Contemporary Dugong and Sea Turtle Conservation Research; and (5) Seagrass Ecosystem Services.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Improved Coastal and Marine Environment

C3 Philippines played a significant role in strategic policy and program planning with the government agencies, civic organizations and communities which contributed to better management and protection of fisheries and coastal and marine ecosystems.

The implementation of a functional Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) mechanism was strengthened at the municipality level in Busuanga. Local partners' capacity was enhanced in establishing and supporting harvest control measures; participatory and consultative processes to complete baseline information of fisheries at the ecosystem level, MPA creation and networking. Four newly proposed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); Quezon Marine Protected Area, Buluang Marine Protected Area, New Busuanga ECAN Marine Protected Area, and Calawit

Community-based Driven Conservation Area; and two Women Managed Areas in Ocam Ocam and Calawit were established.

Marine Protected Area Management Planning

Associated with the MPA creation, two Barangay Resolutions and one Municipal Resolution were passed to institutionalize the protection of MPAs in Busuanga. Consultations and an associated consultations and outreach and education campaign were conducted in the associated barangays. The





result was an additional 1,402.1 hectares of new/proposed MPA and improved management regimes: 417 ha in Calawit Island; 406 ha in Barangay Buluang, 307 ha in Barangay Quezon; and 272.2 ha in barangay New Busuanga. Moreover, a total of 374 ha of Women Managed Areas are under the protection of indigenous women; 146 ha in Calawit Island, and 228 ha in Ocam-ocam, New Busuanga. Improved protection of 392 ha of coastal and marine habitat at Concepcion Sagrada-Bogtong MPA as assured.

A preliminary baseline assessment on the population status of the Giant Clam in Ocam-ocam was made

as part of the Taklobo Rehabilitation Program and initiatives towards the establishment of the Women Managed Area in the community. This will also be supported and pushed through as a women's conservation enterprise and tourism venture in 2021.

Management plans for each MPA are at different stages of review and consultation.

MPA Legislation and Plan Enhancements

C3 supported the Sangguniang Bayan of Busuanga in updating and enhancing its Municipal Regulatory

Ordinance No.26, series of 2006, also known as “Fishing Registration and Licensing Ordinance of Busuanga.” This aimed to specifically update the registration and licensing fees as to catch-up with the current inflation and line up with the financial needs of Busuanga with regards to fisheries development.

Busuanga key officials from the Philippine National Police, Municipal Agriculturist Office Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council, and Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office were pro-actively engaged in monitoring and assessment activities in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing to enhance the local and network policy enforcement systems. Similarly, vulnerability assessments and gender policy

frameworks are in the process of being integrated into the Municipal Water Resource Plan.

Moreover, forest management plans were subjected to updating process to be integrated into to Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Forest Land-use Use Plan and Municipal Water Use Plan of the municipality in order to legitimize Busuanga’s natural resource management strategies. The program also drafted the Busuanga Mangrove Ecosystem Management Plan, a community-led design and anchored in the existing local development plans of the municipality lean towards sustainable mangrove management.

Strengthening Youth and Women Participation

The The Busuanga Eco-warriors, initially formed as Peer Educators have been pivotal in the popularization of EAFM in Busuanga. Eco-warriors participated in various Program activities and training: the radio broadcasting training, MPA/ WMA broadcasting; co-facilitated the Management Planning Writeshop; Community Savings Mechanism Validation and Planning Workshop; Leadership Training to WMA; and Tarahomonan Festival; Violence Against Women Training; and Integrated Fisheries Resource Management, Business Planning in Busuanga.



Over 100 youth Eco-warriors reached more than 200 peers through their inter-personal communication sessions covering topics on MPA, Bantay Dagat (Sea Rangers), licensing, and right sizing. They were also involved in sharing knowledge on compliance and enforcement, business and livelihood; research, education and community participation; administration, finance and infrastructure. The empowered youth established a monitoring and reporting system and updated Action Plans towards achieving goals on EAFM.

Advancing Women's Role: Organizing The Women's Network

More women and youth were able to exercise civil and political rights that influenced decision-making through various engagements with MPA, policy, enterprises and organizational planning processes. As part of the initial organization of a Women's Network, C3 facilitated the profiling and assessment of 21 organized women's groups in Busuanga. In the



subsequent consultation and engagement process, women agreed upon the organization and crafting of objectives of the network as follows: (1) Participate in EAFM by pushing for representation of the Women's Network to Municipal Development Council and/or Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council; (2) Support the establishment and management of Women-Managed Areas and advocate for more WMAs/MPAs; (3) Address issues of artisanal trade network in municipal fisheries by capacitating the women in fish post-harvest practices through economic empowerment and value chain upgrading of the local market; and (4) Assist or facilitate the operationalization of the Community Fish Landing Center in Brgy. Salvacion.



BLUE CARBON

Mangrove and Beach Forest Conservation Through Community Partnerships

This year, C3 completed the Forest Foundation funded Busuanga Costal Forest Project and fully contributed to the conservation of the blue carbon forests in 6 barangays of Busuanga (Bogtong, Concepcion, New Busuanga, Old Busuanga, Quezon, Calawit; and 2 barangays of Coron (Borac and Turda). A total of 1,652 hectares of mangrove and beach forests have been restored and conserved with great participation of community members who tended more than 60,000 seedlings which were planted out at the rehabilitation sites.

Strengthening Environmental Law Enforcement

Eight community members from Bogtong were trained and deputized by the Department of



Environment and Natural Resources as Coastal Forest Guards. This ensured that they would be able to serve not only as the eyes and ears (intelligence gathering) of regular enforcers but that they themselves will be fully knowledgeable about the proper procedures to conduct monitoring and patrolling as well as apprehension of violators in the MPAs.

Busuanga also formed the Bantay Busuanga Coastal Law Enforcement Team and Plan participated by the Sanguniang Bayan Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Slaughterhouse, Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council and Council Members from selected barangays. The law



enforcement team composition is co-headed by the Philippine National Police, Philippine Maritime Group and Philippine Coast Guard. The members of the law enforcement team include Bantay Dagat, Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council, Bantay Dugong, and the Coastal Forest Guard. Meanwhile the office of the Mayor, Municipal Agriculture Office and Sanguniang Bayan serve as the oversight body together with indigenous peoples communities, MPA/Community, NGO and private enforcement team. An executive order or Municipal Ordinance will also be pushed through to institutionalize the team and the plan.

Reinforcing Awareness and Education

The Programme continued pertinent awareness raising activities and tools through film screening and photo exhibits on coastal and marine resource management. Colourful mangrove posters and brochures were designed and disseminated, a short film of Busuanga Coastal Forest project was produced, highlighting community involvement in the project; a teachers' guide to mangrove ecosystems was designed for secondary schools and interpretative signage panels were installed at the mangrove boardwalk project in Bogtong.

At the expansion site, in support to celebrate National Environment Awareness Month and the National Day for Youth in Climate Action, C3 Philippines spearheaded the Seagrass Festival under the theme: “Let Us Promote a Healthy Seagrass Ecosystem, Source of Rich Marine Biodiversity and Bountiful Fisheries”. This was held in Barangay Minara, Roxas, Palawan. The activity was participated by around 50 representatives from the communities, municipal government and national agencies. This activity promoted awareness on the importance of coastal ecosystems, through protection of dugongs and conservation of its seagrass habitats and other marine forms of life.



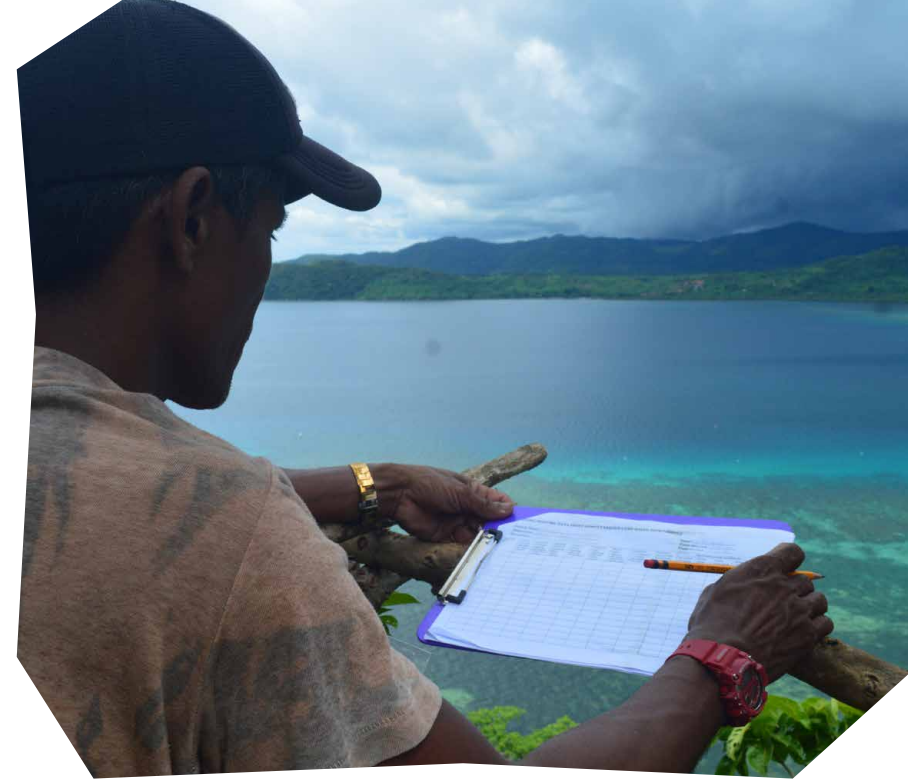
ENDANGERED SPECIES

Safeguarding Foraging Grounds for Turtles and Dugongs

C3 Philippines is the national partner for the United Nations Seagrass Ecosystem Services Project implemented across the South-East Asian region in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

This year the first ever data has been collected on dugong hot spots, seagrass foraging areas, and fishing grounds in 3 partner communities composed of New Barbacan, Minara and San Nicholas in Roxas, Palawan. A monitoring programme for seagrass systems will be designed to assess their health and productivity.

Technical partners include University of Western Australia, Murdoch University Australia, Edith Cowan University, Marine Research Foundation,



Project Seagrass-UK, Seagrass Watch and James Cook University.

Annual Community Dugong Count

Our annual dugong count took place in July 2020 in Calawit in partnership with the University of the Philippines-Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology (UP-IESM). Seventy-two citizen scientists participated, including Indigenous People,





Indigenous Peoples' Participation in Green Sea Turtles Survey

Under the Edge of Existence Fellowship Program, Glnelle Gayasan of C3 carried out research on the “Integration of Tagbanua Traditional Ecological Knowledge on Contemporary Dugong and Pawikan Conservation.” Sea turtle field Surveys were done with the participation of trained citizen scientists and indigenous community partners in Pamalican and Black Islands, Busuanga, Palawan. The project aims to develop an action plan for the conservation

Bantay Dugong, students and Eco-Warriors. An estimate of 38 dugongs were counted. As in 2019, most frequent sightings were recorded in North Calawit. Calves were sighted at two stations (Punta and Punda stations). An estimated 10 to 16 individual dugongs were identified as being present in the area.

This monitoring activity will be continuously done with the support of partners and communities in the coming years.

of the green sea turtles through the integration of Tagbanwa traditional ecological knowledge (TEK). This is the first project in the Calamianes and in the Philippines emphasizing social research on TEK for a long-term conservation plan of marine turtles.



RURAL ENTREPRENEURS

An Enabling Economic and Policy Environment

C3 supported 3 civil society organisations with the needed capacities and tools to develop income-generating activities and become social enterprises in order to become financially independent and sustainable in the long-term.

C3 completed business feasibility studies for identified income generating opportunities for communities. The programme helped developed a feasibility study on ecotourism business in barangays Bogtong and Concepcion, Busuanga. The tourism carrying capacity assessment for Concepcion Sagrada-Bogtong Marine Protected Area was based on the manual published by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Protected Areas Management Bureau in determining the total allowable visitors for

specific tourism activities in certain areas. Similarly a feasibility study was prepared for face mask fabrication project and dugong embroidery in addition to the original dugong dolls. Feasibility studies were made in conjunction with household surveys and focus group interviews and planning workshops to determine the best livelihoods for local communities. The ultimate aim was to develop a sustainable and profitable income generating activity for the continuity of WMA operations.





Women's Oyster Harvesting Enterprise

C3 was at the forefront directly assisting Tagbanua women in the management and conservation of Cachipay oysters in Calawit islands. The cachipay (oysters) have long been an important source of livelihood for the local community, especially during lean fishing seasons or when the weather doesn't allow fisherfolk to go out to sea. While harvesting them is a task traditionally shared by both men and women, ownership, and consequently, management of the ancestral waters had always been delegated to men. The project successfully achieved a gender milestone this year with women of the tribe having

been granted tenurial rights over the domain by virtue of an official resolution signed by the Tagbanwa elders and members of the tribe's executive committee. Fifteen women from the Indigenous and traditionally male-led Tagbanwa group were given more than 130 hectares as a WMA where they can have direct control over management and use of the cachipay. Training are given to newly-organized IP women to help them hone and improve their technical fisheries management skills and decision-making prowess.

Community-Based Sustainable Tourism

This year, C3 Philippines assisted in the construction of a 250-meter mangrove Boardwalk and visitor center in Bogtong and a Floating Watchtower in Concepcion. These would serve as ecotourism attractions and will strengthen the forest protection, and monitoring of mangrove forest in the area. These structures add sustainability to MPA management for further development into alternative livelihood opportunities for communities managing the MPA. Identified potential tourism and nature-based activities include kayaking, bird watching, showcasing mangrove



nursery production and planting, mud crab production and gathering of shells. Communities indicated strong interest to further explore these activities given the necessary training and logistical and structural support.

In partnership with the Busuanga-local government units, local partners were engaged in Community Guiding and Tourism Promotion. The activity was co-organized with the Municipal Tourism Office (MTO) and the Department of Tourism Regional Office with the aim to capacitate community partners as front liners in handling tourism activities. Participants acquired knowledge and skills about guest handling and protocol standards for ecotourism management. They also learned potential markets for local ecotourism products and services to help them in marketing and promotions. Participants were given certifications from the municipal and regional tourism offices as legitimate local tour guides after passing the exam based on the Department of Tourism (DOT) standards.

Promoting Community Savings

A microfinance support was piloted in Calawit for the establishment of conservation enterprise

for women's organization that will advance fisheries management. Fifty Women involved in Women Managed Area and Livelihood project in Calawit organized a Village Saving Loan Association (VSLA Constitution). They agreed to individual fund sharing community savings scheme, and the minimum share is 100.00 PHP interest of 7% weekly.

In addition to dugong dolls sewing, face mask production emerged as another alternative source of income for women of Calawit and San Isidro during the onset of the pandemic. This helped them get through the challenging pandemic situations.



OUR PARTNERS



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